



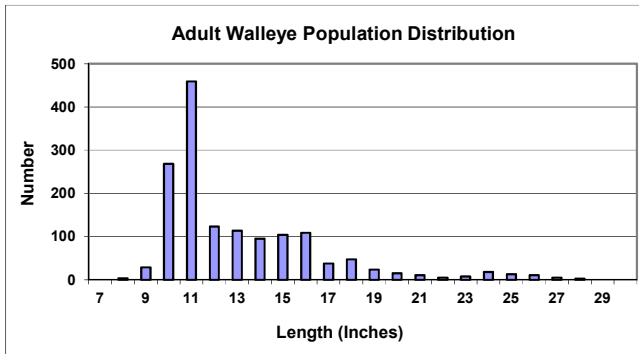
**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**LAKE:** OXBOW

**COUNTY:** VILAS

**YEAR:** 2018

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Oxbow Lake, Vilas County, from May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup>, to assess the status of the adult Walleye population. Oxbow Lake is a drainage lake with predominantly sand and rock substrates. It has a surface area of 511 acres, 13.5 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 44 feet. Oxbow Lake's Walleye population is sustained through natural reproduction.



\* Note: Adult Walleye are defined as all sexable Walleye (regardless of length) and those of unknown sex  $\geq 15$  inches in length.

**Walleye**



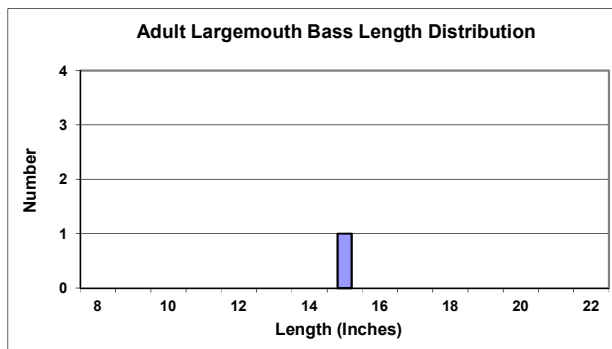
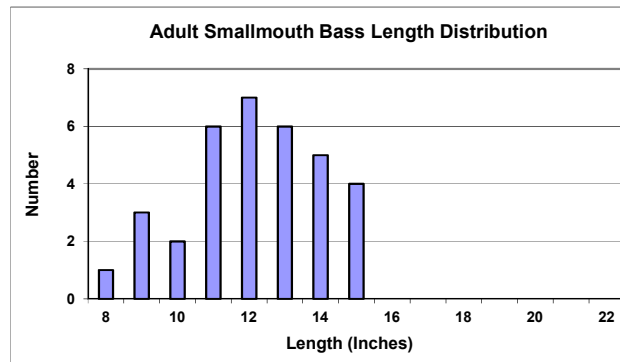
During three days of fyke netting, 483 adult Walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. Two crews then sampled with electrofishing boats and captured 193 adult Walleye. During electrofishing 33% (63 of 193) of captured Walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest Walleye we captured was a 28.7-inch female.

Based on those results, Oxbow Lake was estimated to contain 1,501 adult Walleye (2.9/acre). An estimated 27% of adult Walleye were 15 inches or longer.

**Smallmouth Bass**



Smallmouth Bass were not a primary target during our survey of Oxbow Lake. Sampling occurred prior to peak Smallmouth spawning. We captured 34 Smallmouth Bass eight inches or larger; 27% were 14 inches or longer, and the largest was 15.7 inches.



**Largemouth Bass**



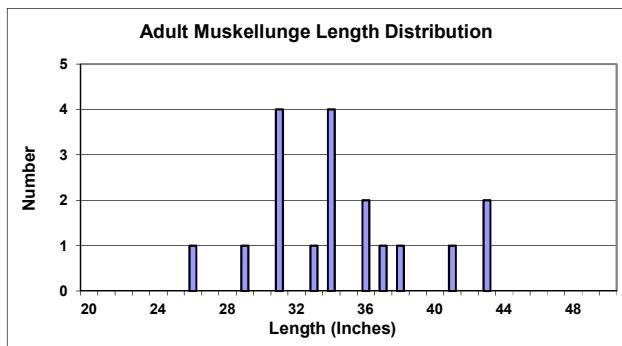
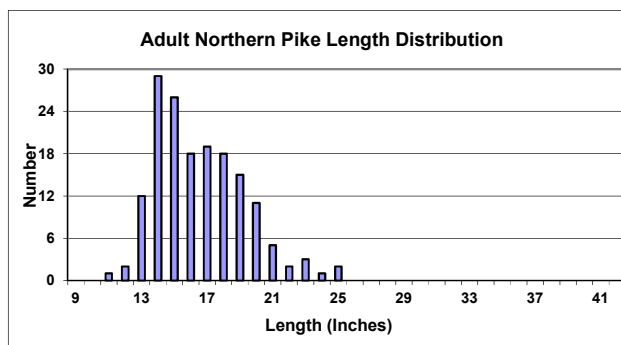
Largemouth Bass were also not a primary target during our survey of Oxbow Lake, with sampling having occurred prior to peak Largemouth spawning. We captured just one 15.0-inch Largemouth Bass during our survey.

## Northern Pike



We captured 164 adult Northern Pike in Oxbow Lake. All Pike captured were less than 26 inches long, and the largest was a 25.7-inch female.

\* Note: Adult Northern Pike are defined as all sexable Northern Pike and those of unknown sex  $\geq 12$  inches in length.



## Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electrofishing sampling of Oxbow Lake, 18 adult Muskellunge were captured; two being hybrid Tiger Muskellunge. Of the adult Muskellunge, 17% (3 of 18) were 40 inches or longer, and the largest was a 43.7-inch female. Additionally, five juvenile Muskellunge (16.7" - 27.2") were also captured.

\* Note: Adult Muskellunge are defined as all sexable Muskellunge and those of unknown sex  $\geq 30$  inches in length.

## Other Species

In addition to the gamefish mentioned above, 11 species of fish were captured during our fyke netting and electrofishing sampling of Oxbow Lake. Yellow Perch and Rock Bass were common in our fyke net catches. We also caught moderate numbers of Bluegill and Black Crappie. Other species captured included Pumpkinseed, Black and Yellow Bullhead, Burbot, White Sucker, Golden Shiner, and Creek Chub.

A creel survey will be conducted on Oxbow Lake throughout the 2018-19 fishing season. A creel clerk will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate angler fishing effort, catch and harvest.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Oxbow Lake, Vilas County, 2018-19.**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 5 - March 3	3	No Minimum, 1 over 14 inches
Largemouth Bass	May 5 - March 3	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth Bass	May 5 - June 15 (C&R) June 16 - March 3 (Harvest)	5 in total with LMB; harvest season only	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 26 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 5 - March 3	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Oxbow Lake is included above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from our web site at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/>

This report is interim only; Watch for finalized summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtysprngsrvys.html>. Creel survey results should be available by June of 2019 at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtycrslsrvys.html>. For questions, contact:

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For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Oxbow Lake, Vilas County, contact:

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